GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1186
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
TELEPHONE FACILITIES TO VILLAGE PANCHAYATS .
Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has provided telephone facilities to all the village Panchayats in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) If not, the number of village Panchayats wherein telephone facilities have not been provided so far;

(d) The time by which all the Panchayats will be provided with telephone facilities; and

(e) The steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) The department maintains data in respect of villages covered by rural telephony. As on 30th June 2006, 5,46,506 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) have been provided in the country. State-wise details are given in the Annexure.

(c) There are 39,341 eligible villages in the country without a Village Public Telephone(VPTs). This excludes villages having less than 100 population and lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc.

(d) These remaining eligible villages will be provided VPTs by November 2007.

(e) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to provide VPTs in these remaining eligible villages with support from USOF.